



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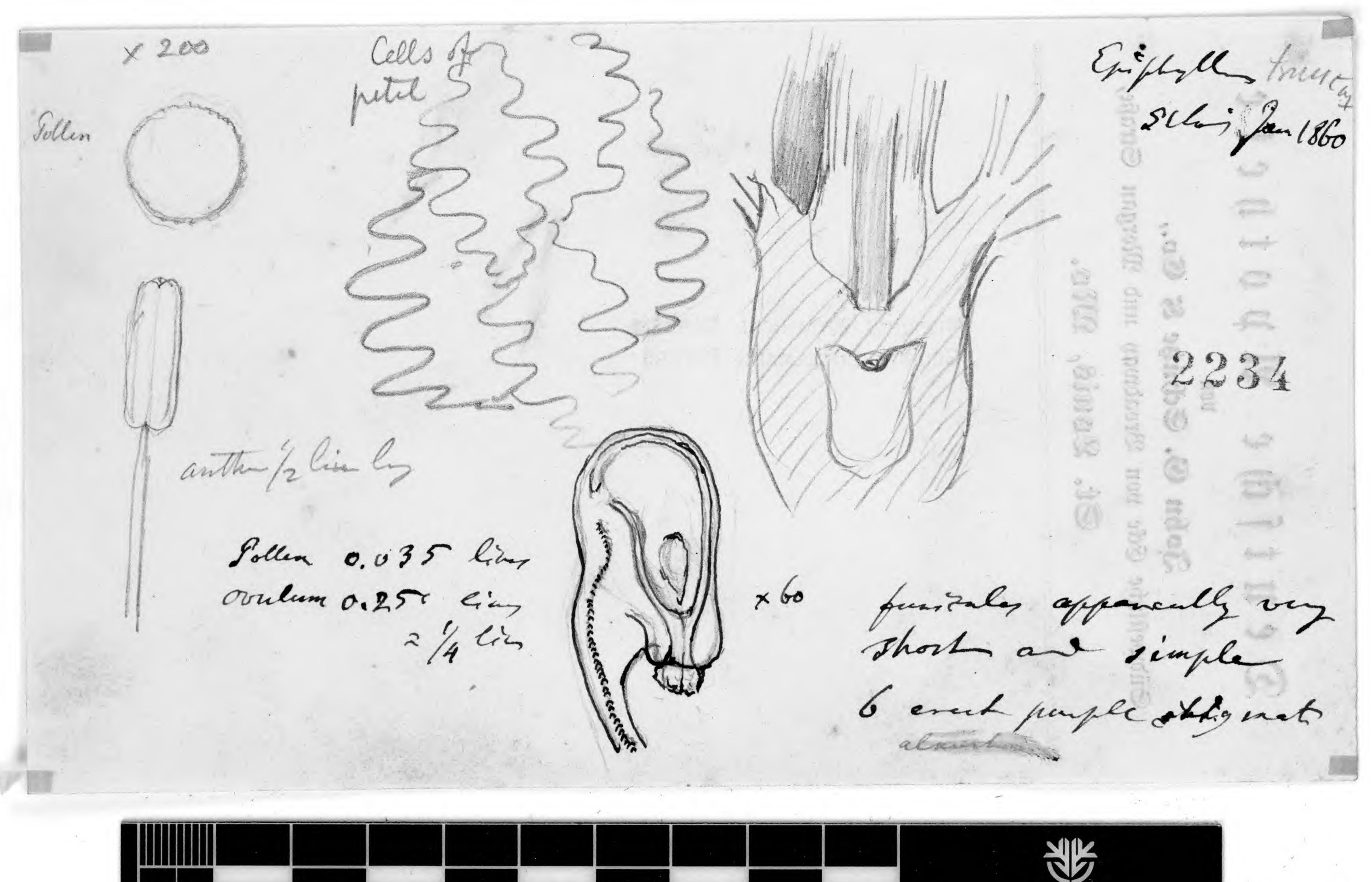


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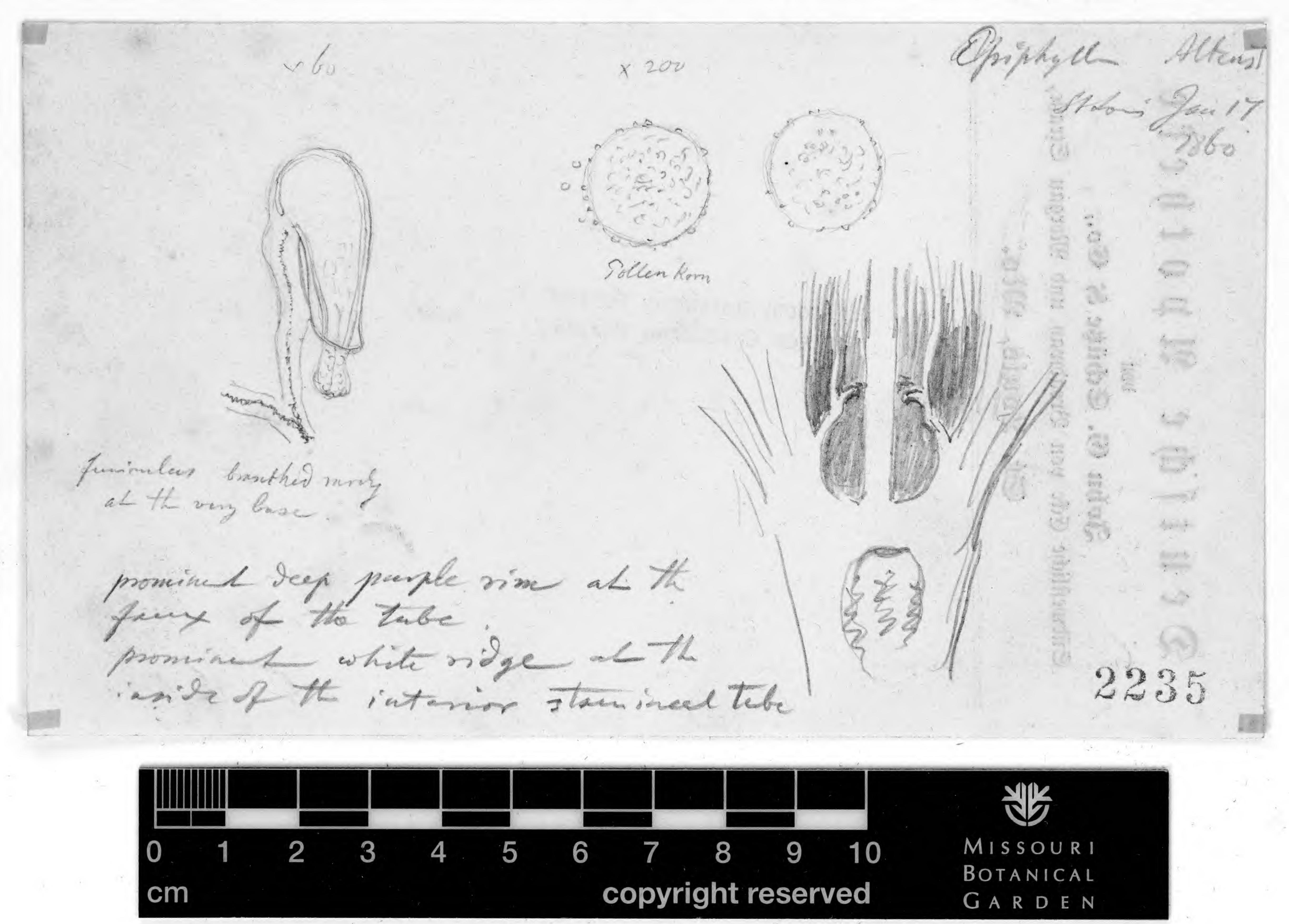
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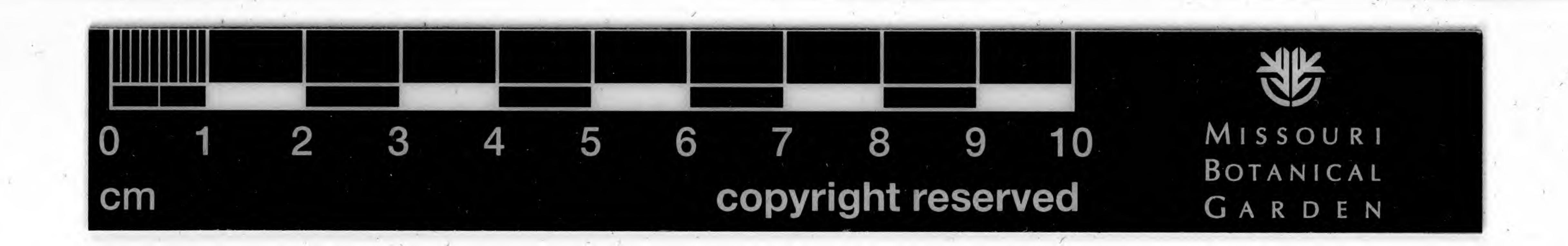


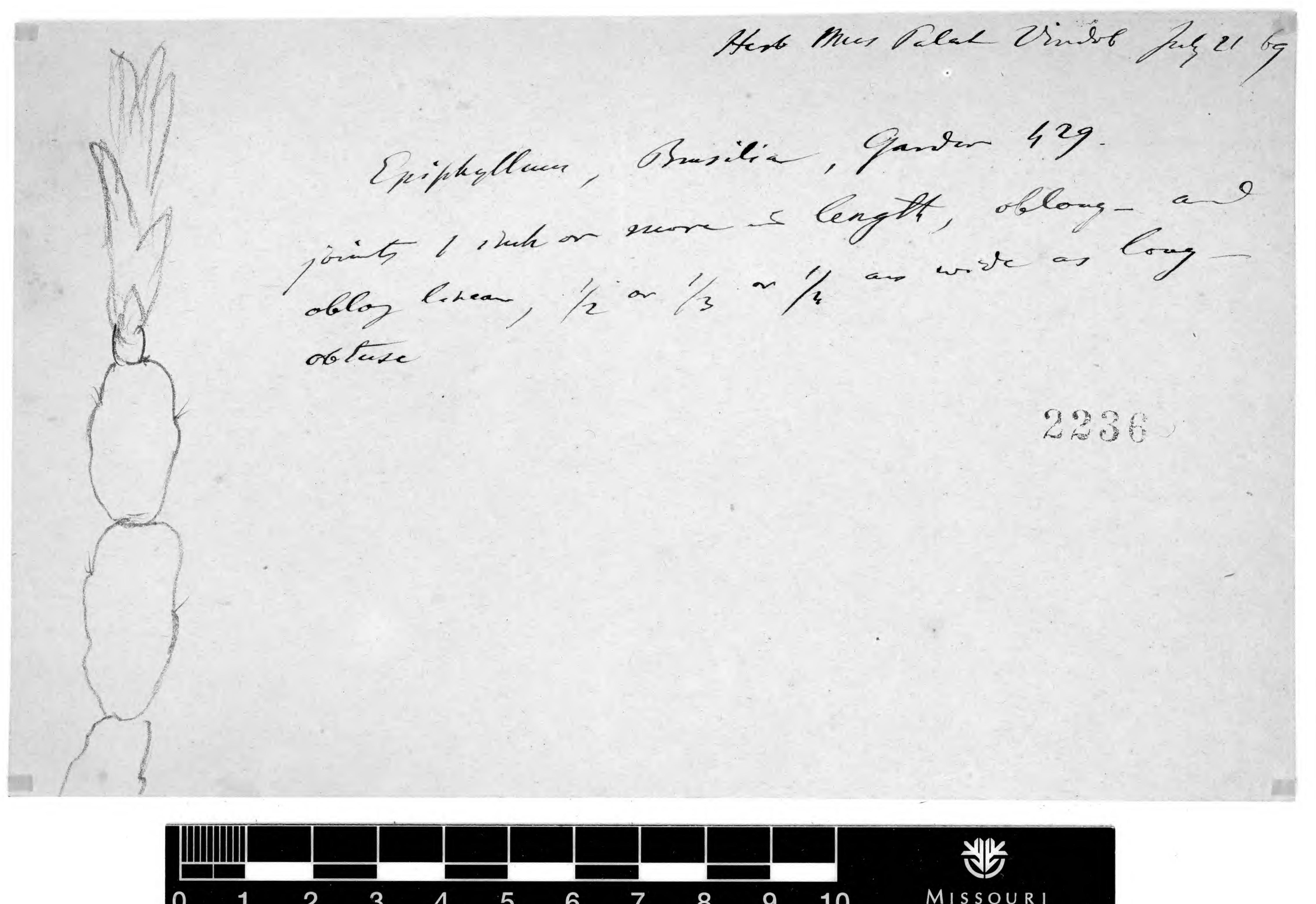


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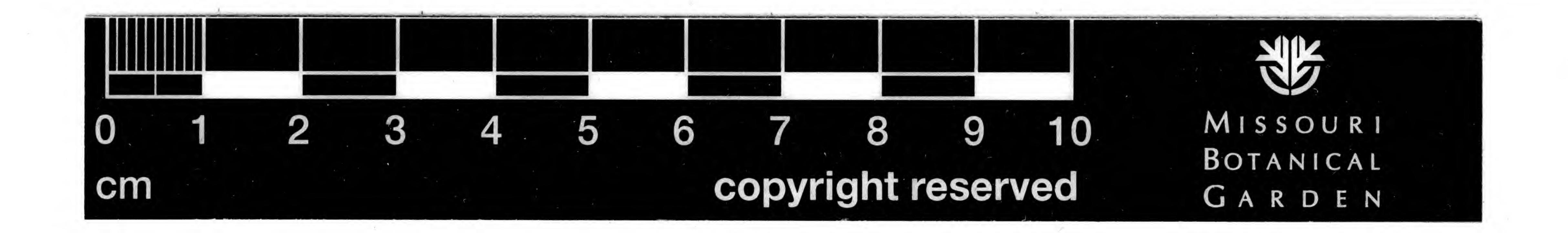








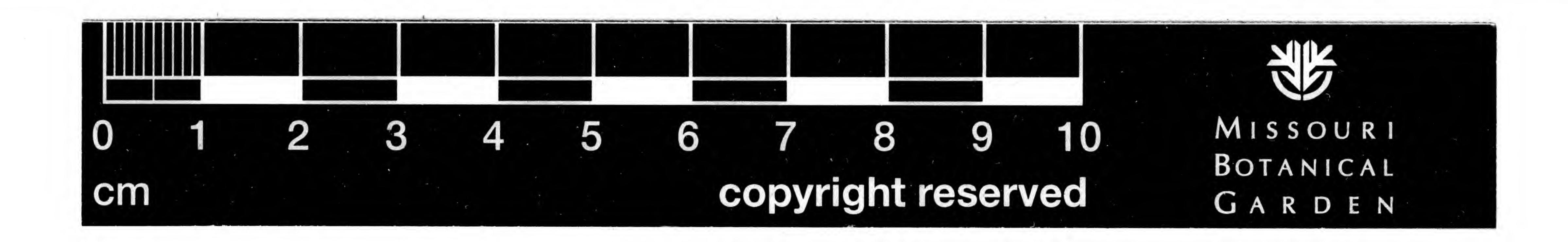
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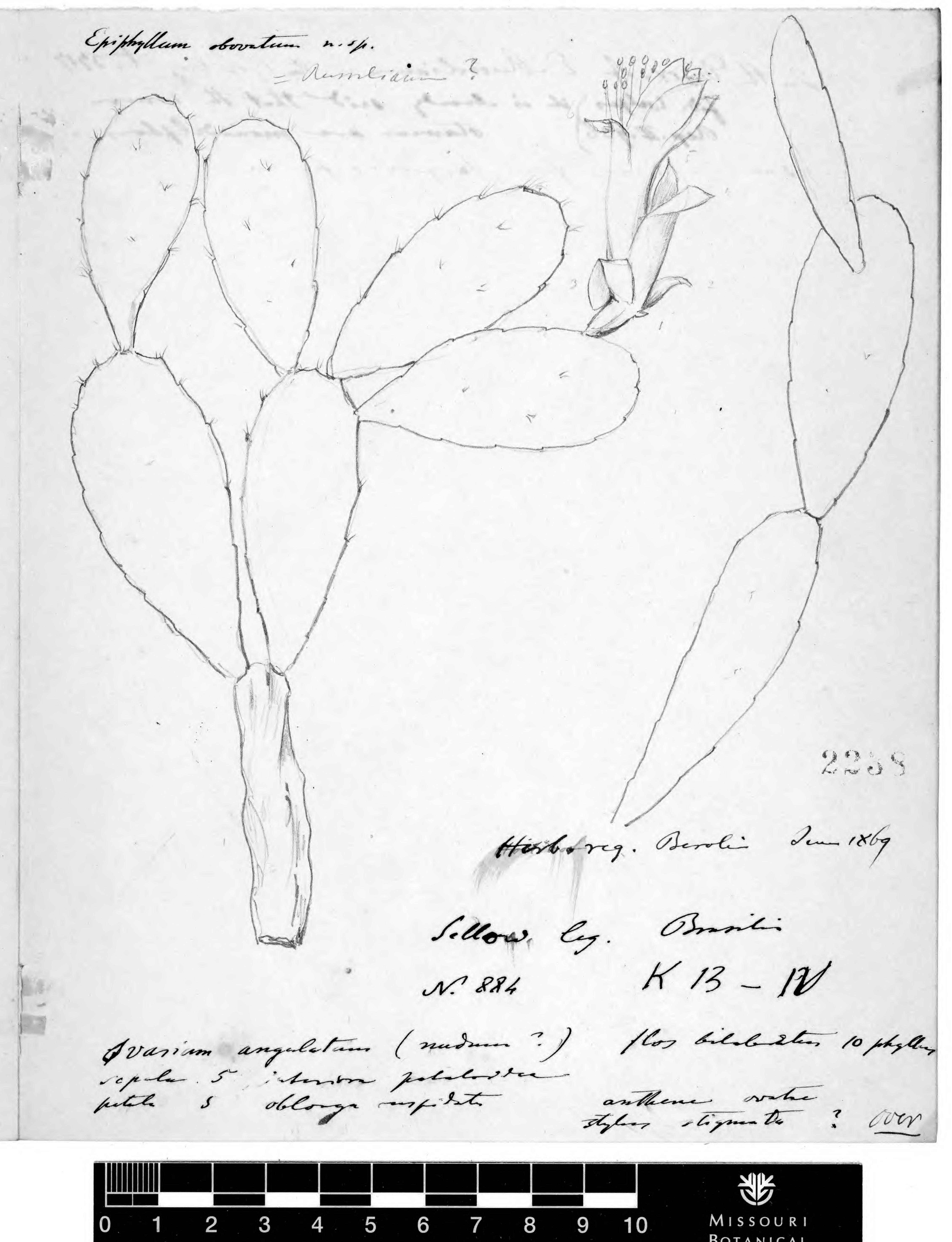


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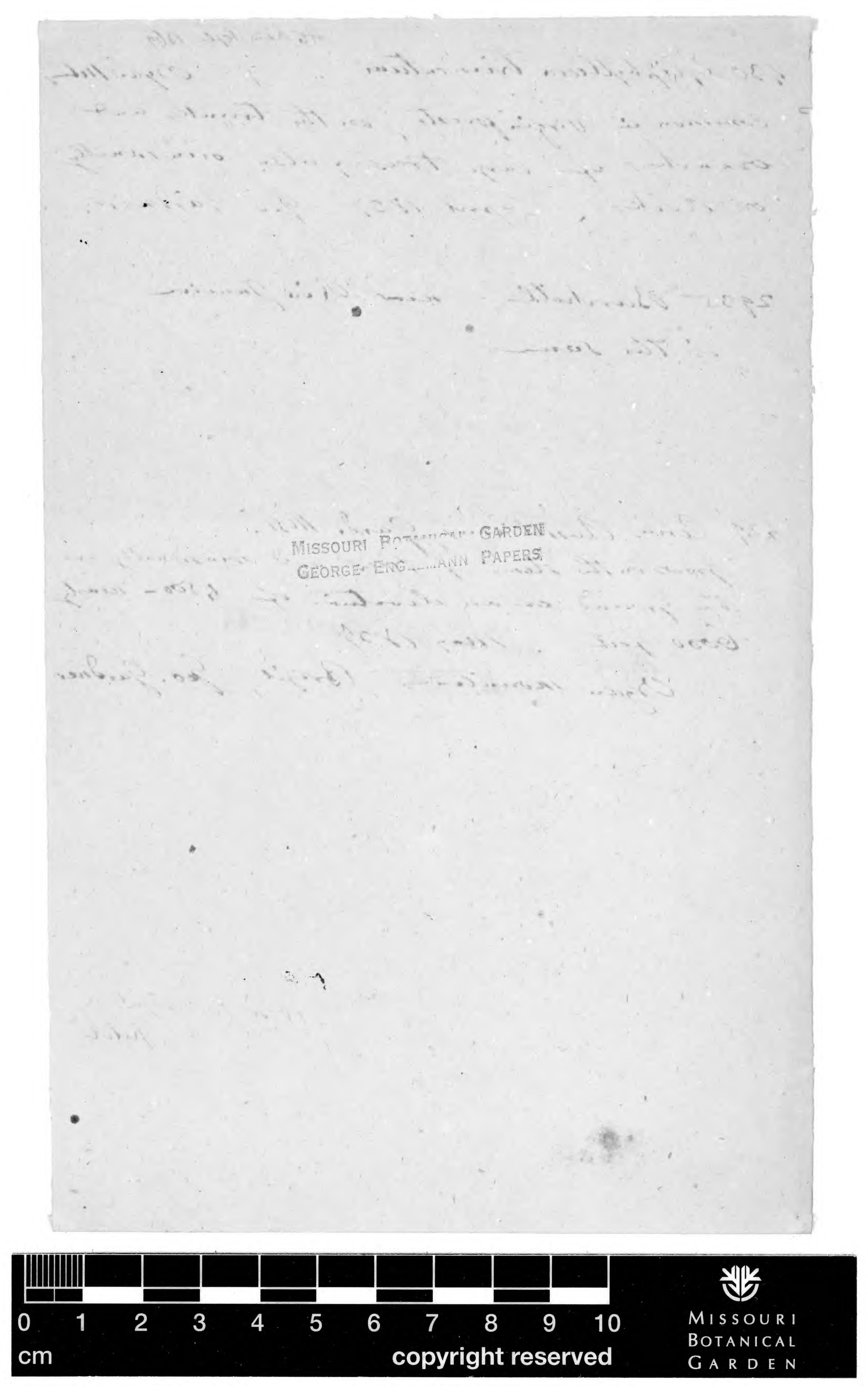
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
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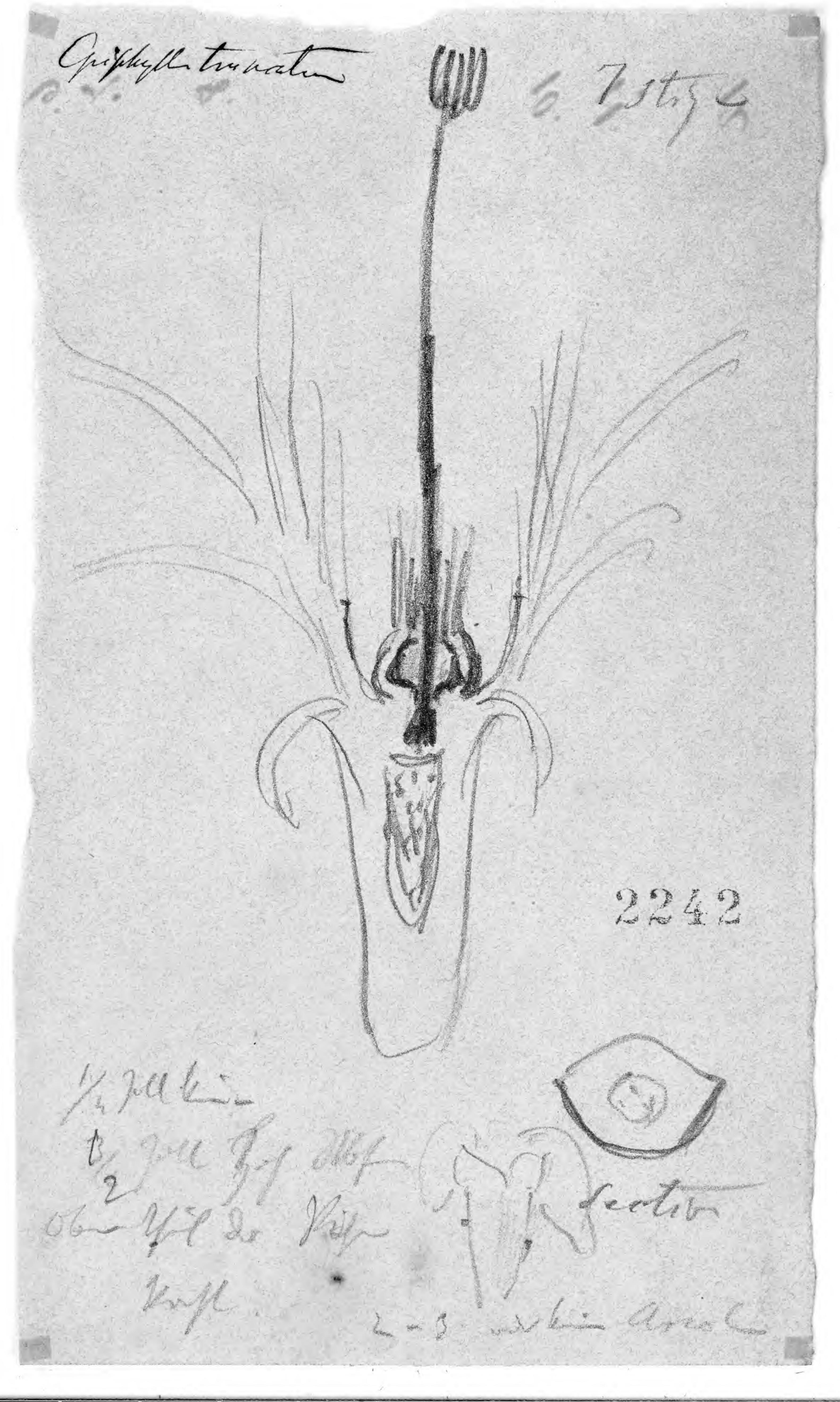
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


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BOTANICAL copyright reserved cm GARDEN By A. WISLIZENUS, Vice President.

In the absence of our President, Dr. B. F. SHU-MARD, who, having been appointed State Geolo. gist of Texas, has found there a more extensive field for his scientific acquirements, the duty has devolved upon me of laying before the Academy an abstract of our progress during the last year. I am happy to state that our young Institution has given also, in the past year, such proofs of its activity, that its future permanency may be safely relied upon. Our meetings have been regularly attended, and were enlivened by scientific discussions, and by verbal and written communications on a great variety of subjects; donations to our Museum and Library have been most liberally forwarded from friends far and near; and the second number of our "Transactions," published during the last year, has been received with great favor, if not partiality, by the scientific world, both at home and abroad.

The distribution of our publications in foreign countries, has been chiefly effected through the agancy of the Smithsonian Institution, and in this way we have been put in communication with numerous Institutions of similar tendency in the cultivated world, who kindly appreciate the first fruits of our industry and in exchange return us most valuable books and whole sets of scientific journals. The number of societies with which we are at present connected, is one hundred and eighty-one, to wit:

Forty-nine within the United States, Canada, Mexico, Cuba and Chili; 5 in Asia; 2 in Australia; 1 in Africa; 134 in Europe—1 Ireland, 1 Denmark, 2 Norway, 4 Sweden, 1 Spain, 1 Portugal, 6 Switzerland, 6 Belgium, 7 Holland, 8 Russia, 12 Italy, 22 France, 24 Great Britain, 39 Germany.

It is certainly very desirable to keep up this intercourse with our newly acquired scientific friends, and the yearly publication on our part of a volume, large or small as our means allow, seems to be the most appropriate mode of doing it.

The acquisitions that our library has made during the past year, are quite considerable. Most of them we owe to the liberal system of exchange from older societies, but a great many also to private donation. The public documents, too, of the last Congress, presented to us by the Hon. Trusten Polk and the Hon. Frank P. Blair, afford an unusual interest on account of the numerous Pacific Railroad Explorations, with contributions from a host of scientific men.

The additions made to the Museum emanate nearly all from the liberality of gentlemen, who justly think that objects of that class are made more useful under the control of a society that classifies and arranges them, than in private hands. I will mention some of them under their different departments:

Ethnology.—The Rev. C. H. A. Dall, of Calcutta, India, presented us with an interesting collection of East Indian figures, exhibiting the characteristics of that Eastern people.

Comparative Anatomy.—Drs. Pope and Hill-Gard made some valuable additions to this class.

Mammalogy.—Col. A. J. Vaughn has enriched this department with a handsome specimen of the grizzly bear,

Ormithology has received additions from Capt. John Pope, (collected by him on the 32d parallel) and by E. Weyden, Esq.

Herpetology and Ichthyology.—Specimens of Siren lacertina, caught after the great flood in the American Bottom, were donated by Dr. Sander and Mr. De CLAUSEL.

Malacology.—Prof. A. Winchell, of Michigan, increased this department by a collection of landshells.

Botany.—Dr. Th. C. Hilgard presented to the Academy a collection of the flora of this neighborhood; also a collection of lichens and algae. Through the kindness of C. Witter, Esq., we received from Germany a fine collection of artificially made mushrooms. Rev. Mr. Dall and Dr. McPheeters also made some additions.

Meteorology.—Drs. Engelmann and Wislize.

Nus reported an abstract of their complete meteorological observations for the last year.

Mineralogy.—This department received many interesting specimens from Dr. Pope, Messrs. Cozzens, Harrison, De Baun. Jones & Colman and Bender. The latter gentleman presented also a set of mathematical figures for the illustration of crystalography. Chas. P. Chouteau, Esq., has enriched this department with an exquisite specimen of meteorite, from the neighborhood of Fort Pierre, weighing 35 pounds.

Palæontology and Geology.—Although we have acquired no collection in this department, as in previous years, many valuable donations have nevertheless been made, by Messrs. J. CHARLESS, E. PRATT, Drs. POPE, KENNARD, KOCH, and others. Dr. B. F. Shumard, before his departure, deposited with the Academy three hundred specimens of Tertiary fossils, from Austria; Trilobites from the lower Silurian of Bohemia, and fossils from the Trias of the Alps. Through the favor of our associate member, C. WITTER, Esq., we received also in exchange from Hildburghau. sen, Germany, a superb specimen of the celebrated cheirosaurus or cheiro herium, which, when first discovered in 1833, by Mr. SICKLER, in the New Red sandstone of that region, created a great sensation among geologists. The slab upon which three larger and three smaller tracks of that singular quadruped are well preserved, measures nearly five feet in length, and a foot and a half in width, and would be an ornament to any collec-

In connection with this department, I have yet to mention the interesting discovery, within the past year, of the Permian System, in the Territory of Kansas, and its probable extension over a great part of the West. The minutes of the Academy show us what part was taken by several members of our Society in this discovery.— In February of last year, Professor Swallow and Dr. Shumard informed the Academy of the discovery of certain fossils made in Kansas by our corresponding member, Major F. HAWN, of the United States Survey, which led the first named gentleman to the opinion that the Permian system existed in that region. In March, Dr. Shumard informed the Academy that from a series of fossils cellected by his brother, Dr. GEORGE G. SHUMARD, in the Guadalupe Mountains, New Mexico, he had also discovered the Permian system in the region. Dr. J. G. Nonwood, of Illinois, write the Academy in April that he believed he had found the same system in the upper beds of the La Salle coal field, in Illinois. Prof. Swallow and Dr. Shumard pre-

pared soon afterwards a paper on the subject, which created at first some discussion among geologists, but the discovery of new and more characteristic fossils seems to have removed all doubts, and the existence of the Permian system in Kansas may be regarded as a fact. Near the same time, Mr. F. B. Meek and Dr. F. V. Hayben, at Philadelphia and Albany, published also an account of this discovery, claiming the priority for themselves—a question which we are unable to decide; nor do we consider it of great importance, since all of them, no doubt, deserve credit for their zeal in proving a new geological system in the West.

I consider it needless to enumerate here all the scientific papers read before the Society during the last year, since nearly all of them have been published in the second number of our transactions, and have thus become public property. Upon the authority of Dr. Ingelmann, I will mention that in Europe the geological and palæontological papers published therein by Prot. Swallow, Drs. Prout, B. F. and George Shumard, and Major Hawn, were received with especial favor.

Lastly, I have to state, from the report of the Treasurer, Dr. Pollak, that the receipts of the Academy for 1858 were \$1,253 00; the expenditures \$1,216 00; and that after meeting our liabilities, he estimates an actual balance of about \$200 in our favor, in dues from members. The number of our corresponding members is at present 82; the exact number of associate members I could not ascertain, since many of them have indirectly withdrawn by not paying their dues. The dues from associate members form at present our only revenue, and it requires strict economy to pursue with such limited means the various objects of our society. Similar institutions in Eastern cities have had, in the beginning of their career, to undergo similar trials of mind versus matter, but liberal-minded citizens lent them a helping hand, and endowed them with sufficient means to make their field of operation more extensive and usefui. The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, for instance, holding now the first rank, would not have prospered as well without the magnificent generosity of a Ma. clure and others. Our own city, the great centre of the Mississippi Valley, can certainly boast of as wealthy and liberal men as any in the Union. Let us hope, that in a not far distant day, a Maclure may arise among them, willing to perpetuate his name in the Annals of Science

The following gentlemen were elected officers of the Academy for the year 1859:

President—Adolphus Wislizenus, M. D.
First Vice President—George Engelmann, M. D.
Second Vice President—Charles A. Pope, M. D.
Corresponding Sec'y—Nathaniel Holmes, Esq.
Recording Secretary—J. S. B. Alleyne, M. D.
Treasurer—S Pollak, M. D.

Librarian-Theodore C. Hilgard, M. D.

Curators—H. A. Prout, M. D., C. W. Stevens, M. D., T. C. Hilgard, M. D., Spencer Smith, Esq. Committee on Publication—N. Holmes, Esq., W. M. McPheeters, M. D., Geo. Engelmann, M. D. Committee on Library—H. A. Prout, M. D., C.

A. Pope, M. D., Hon. Samuel Reber.

Committee on Finance—Spencer Smith, Esq.,

J. B. Eads, Esq., C. C. Whittelsey, Esq.

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